

## 1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2  
3 A vending machine includes a video camera for transmitting an  
4 image of a buyer to a remotely located human operator, a document  
5 reader for transmitting an image of identification document(s) to  
6 the remotely located human in control of the vending machine, and  
7 a user interface which gives the appearance that the machine is  
8 autonomous even though the operator's approval is required prior  
9 to vending an age-restricted item. The machine also includes a  
10 payment acceptor and a dispensing apparatus.